



CONNECTICUT
ASSOCIATION
of **NONPROFITS**

*...to serve, strengthen
and support Connecticut's
nonprofit community.*

**Testimony before the Appropriations and Human Services Committees
7.24.12**

**Regarding:
Section 1115 Demonstration Draft Waiver Application**

Senator Harp, Representative Walker, Senator Musto, Representative Tercyak and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. Connecticut Association of Nonprofits (CT Nonprofits) is the largest membership organization in Connecticut dedicated exclusively to working with nonprofits in Connecticut. We represent over 500 nonprofits, approximately 300 of which hold purchase of service contracts with the state to provide health and human services on its behalf.

We are extremely concerned about the Department of Social Services' (DSS) Section 1115 Demonstration Draft Waiver Application relating to the Low-Income Adult Medicaid program. The state of Connecticut has led the nation in developing ways to provide coverage to low income individuals and the changes proposed will be a significant step backwards for our state. This waiver proposal would also result in a program that is more limited than what was available before Medicaid was extended to this new population. Additionally, under the proposed benefit changes, Medicaid LIA participants would receive less adequate health care coverage than other Medicaid participants.

Although the program's capacity has exceeded expectations, the burden should not be placed on the poorest individuals in our state, many of which experience mental illness and substance use disorders. This surge of participants should be seen as a sign of how necessary this program is. Approximately 77,000 Connecticut residents currently rely on the Medicaid LIA program. Many of these individuals have been victims of the harsh economic climate and have no other affordable healthcare options. The proposed restrictions will significantly threaten their access to care and potentially cost the state more money as well as increase the number of individuals without health insurance.

We are also concerned about DSS' capacity to research individual as well as family assets given that the Department is struggling to keep up with processing Medicaid redetermination forms. It is also important to note that the LIA program will become a federally funded and regulated program in 2014.

We understand that the unexpected growth in the program has been challenging for the state, but believe that it is representative of the need for these services within our communities and we urge both committees to carefully consider the proposed changes.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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